

GREENSPACE TRENDS IN BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA 1993-2007



Photo: Heather Reynolds

City of Bloomington
Environmental Commission

What is greenspace?

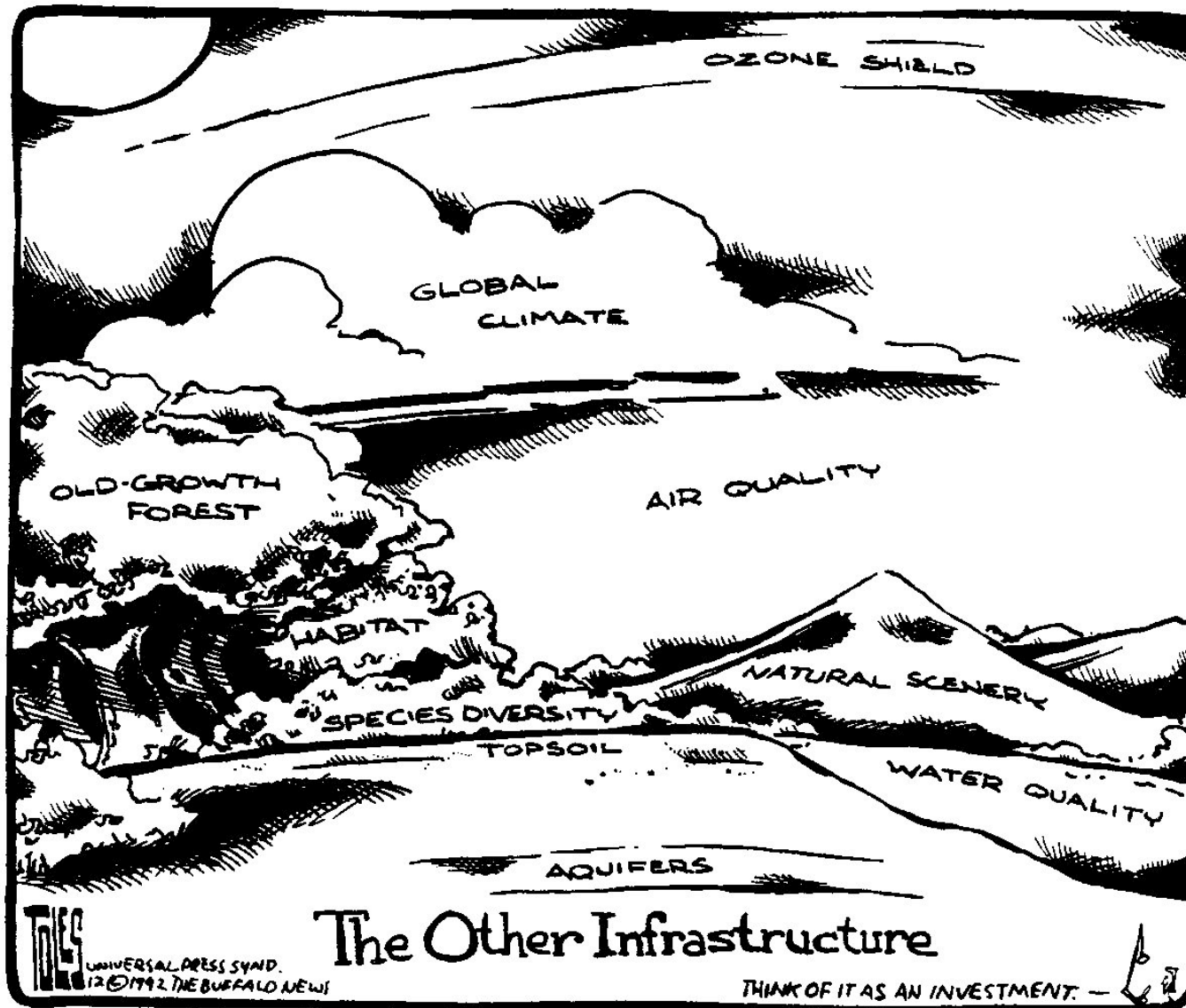
Greenspace: open land in a naturally vegetated or restored state

Characteristics required for the EC's report:

- Permeable surface
- > 1 contiguous acre
- > 10 ft from any man-made development
- within City Planning Jurisdiction



Photo: Heather Reynolds



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Greenspace is green infrastructure.

Greenspace categories

For this study, greenspace was divided into three categories:

PARK

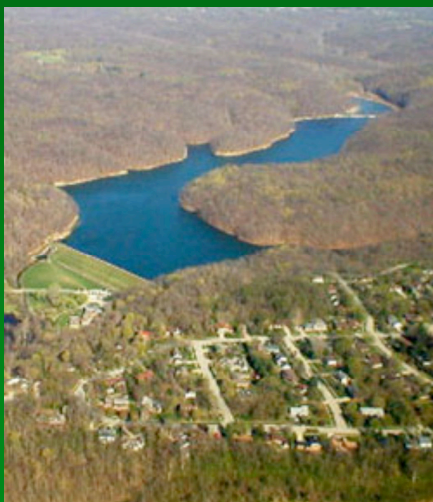


Photo: COB Parks & Recreation

COB Parks & Rec
13% of GS in 1993

IU



Photo: Indiana University Biology

Indiana University
15% of GS in 1993

“IN PLAY”

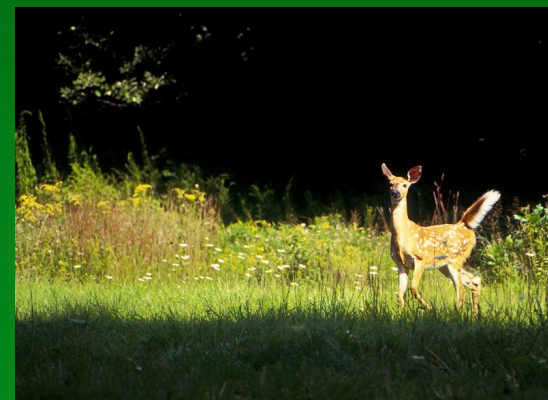


Photo: Heather Reynolds

Non-PARK, non-IU
72% of GS in 1993

Methodology

- Geographic Information System (GIS) software
 - Aerial photographs - 1993, 1998, 2005, 2006
 - Site visits & plans
 - Building permits
- 2002
2003
2007 (July 1)

Calculate PARK, IU, “IN PLAY”
greenspace for each of these
7 years



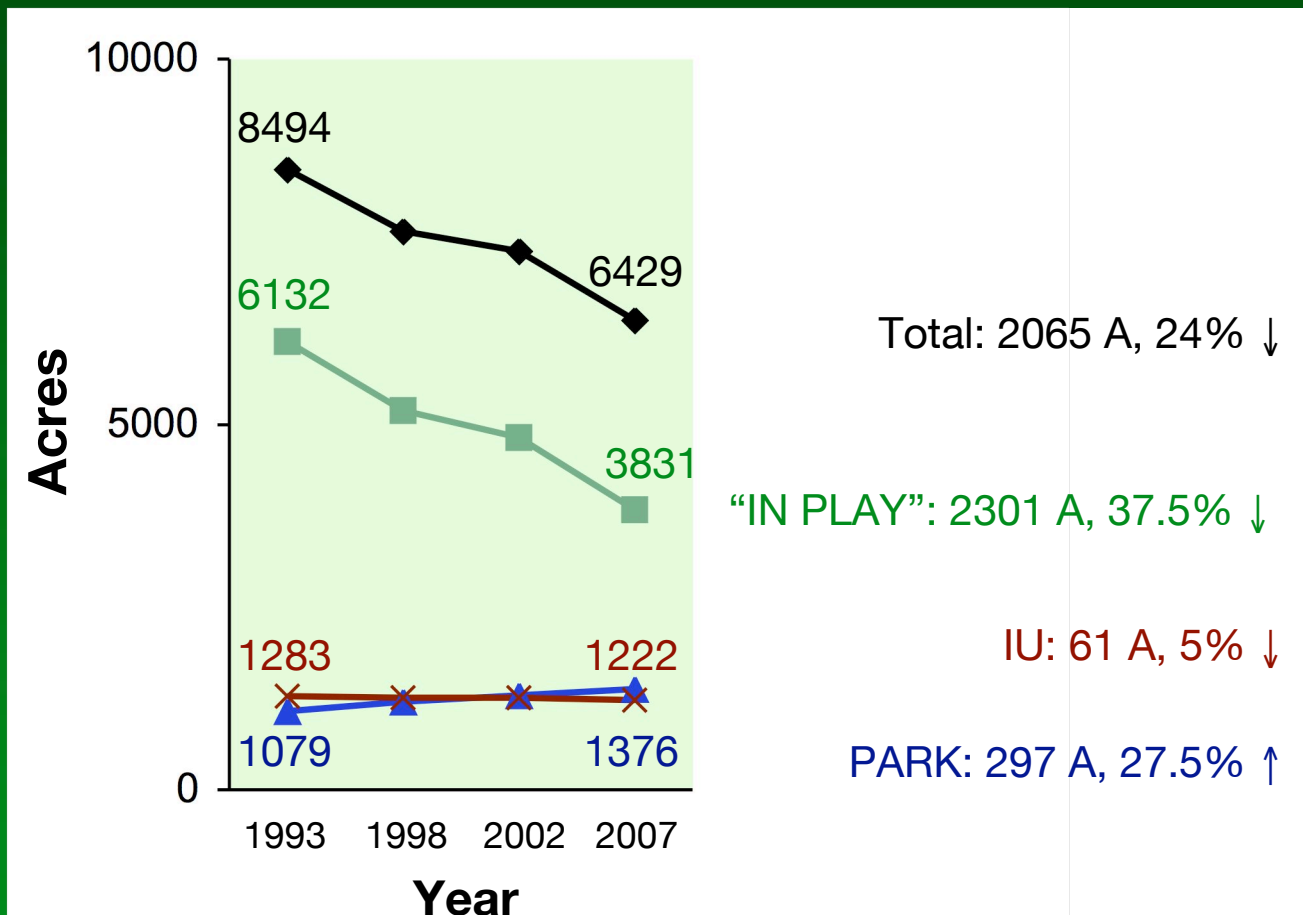
Photo: <http://www.indiana.edu/~gisdata/>

Standardized boundary for study set by 2007 City Planning Jurisdiction (16,707 acres)

What is happening to our
greenspace?

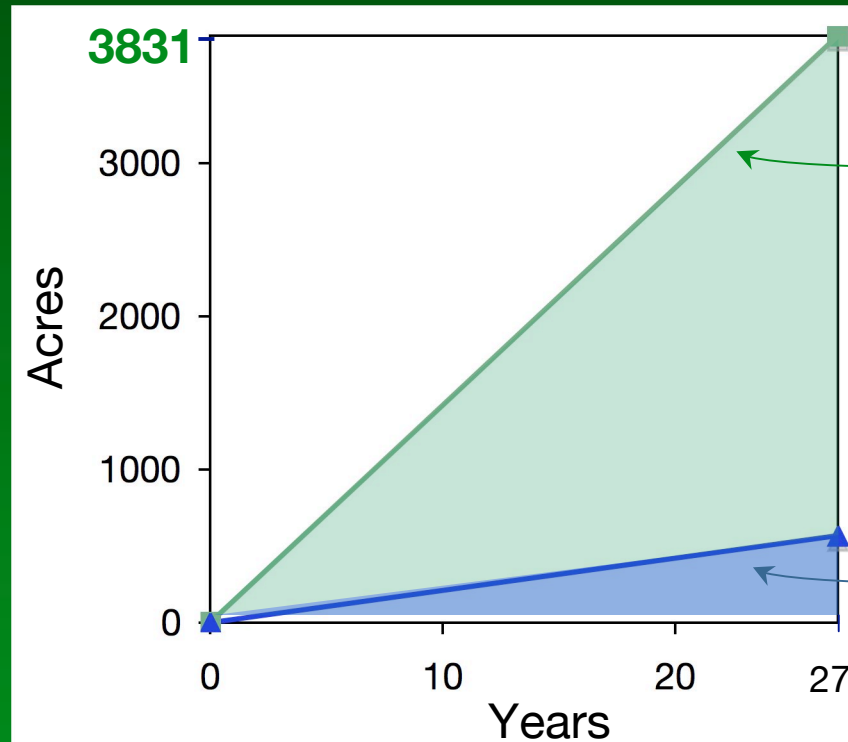
We are losing it.

Greenspace Loss



Bloomington has lost ~one quarter of its total greenspace within 14 years.
Greenspace has decreased from 51% to 38% of City Planning Jurisdiction area.

Fate of Remaining “IN PLAY” Greenspace?



At 143 acres lost/year, all remaining, developable greenspace will be lost in 27 years.

At 21 acres gained/year, in 27 years, Parks & Rec can acquire only 567 acres of remaining “IN PLAY” greenspace.

Ave. Rate of Loss to Development: 143 acres/year (2,004 acres over 14 years)

Ave. Rate of City Parks Acquisition: 21 acres/year (297 acres over 14 years)

Geography of Loss

NW greenspace

1993 – 1,322 A

2007 – 1,092 A

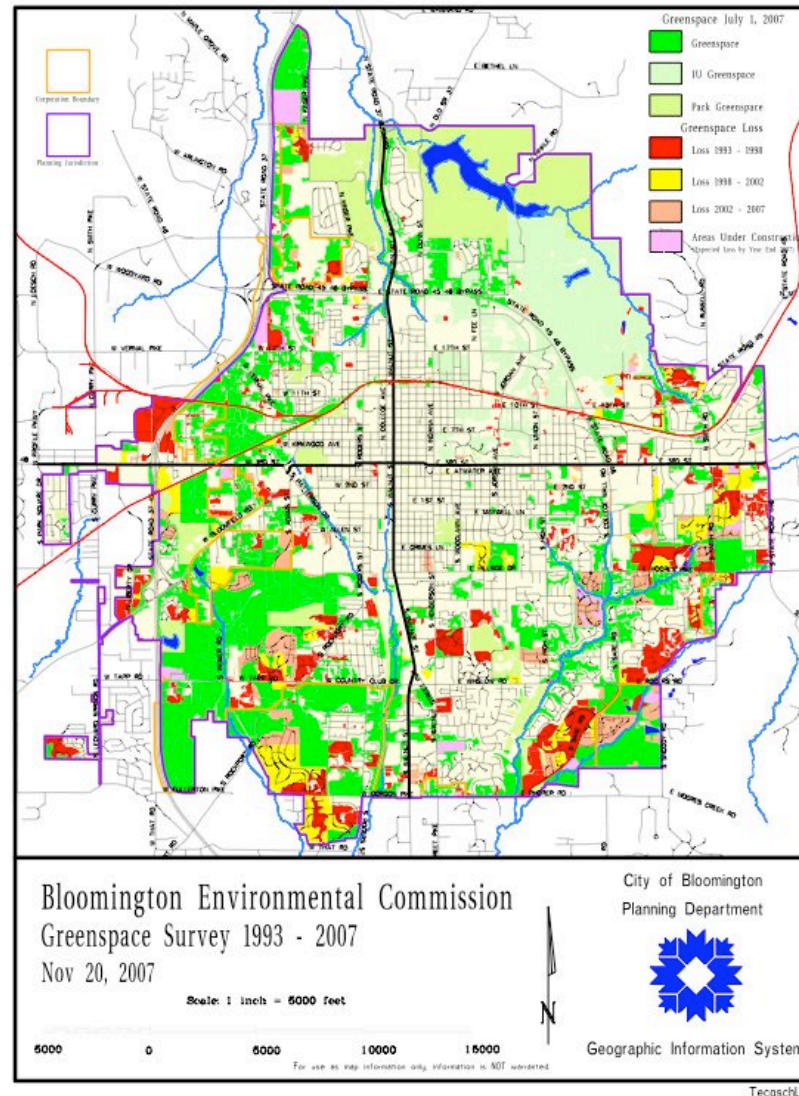
17% decline

SW greenspace

1993: 2,637 A

2007: 1,884 A

28.6% decline



NE greenspace

1993: 2,369 A

2007: 2,250 A

5% decline

SE greenspace

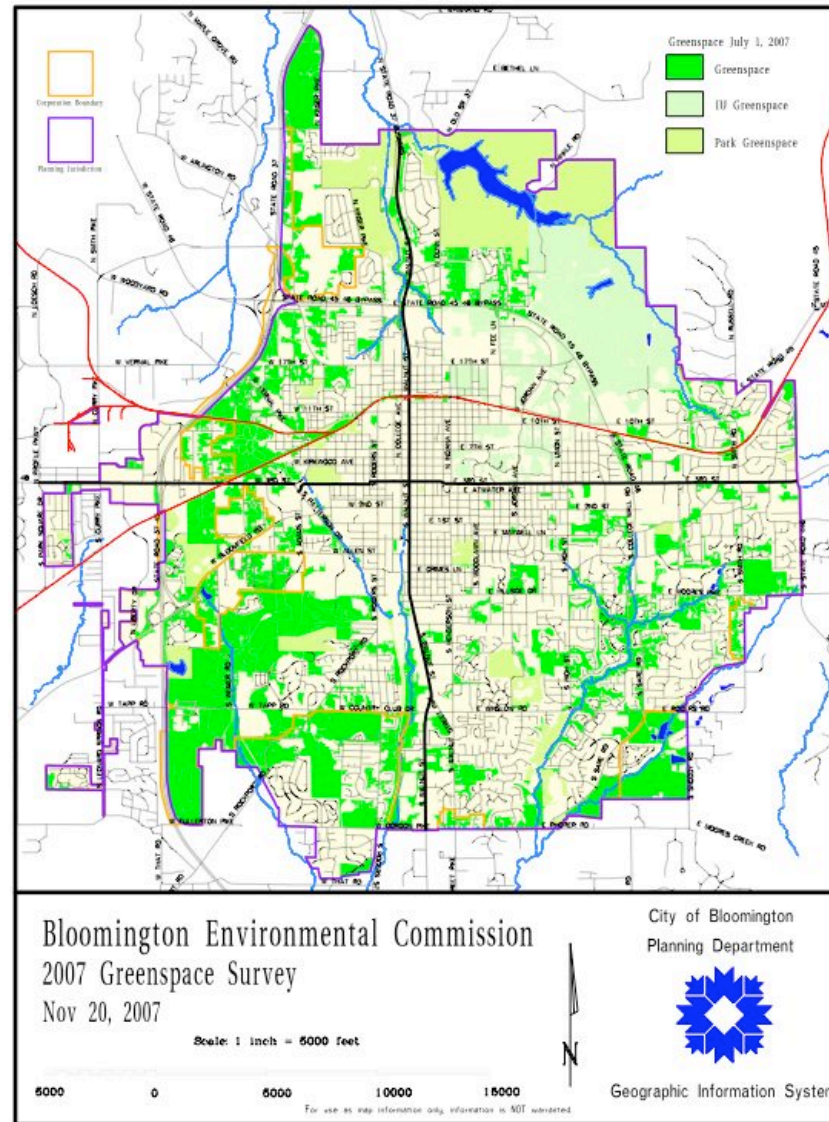
1993: 2,170 A

2007: 1,264 A

42% decline

Of the 3,092 A of greenspace left in the south, only 338 A (11%) are protected.

Remaining Greenspace



What is causing greenspace loss?

Residential development accounts for the majority of loss.



Photo: <http://www.renwickbloomington.com/>

- 24% of greenspace loss in areas zoned for **residential** development
- 65% of greenspace loss in areas zoned for **planned unit development** (80%-85% of which was dedicated to **residential** use)
- 11% of greenspace loss in areas zoned for **commercial** development

How is our greenspace being protected?

IU

- Large university holdings as a result of campus expansions into the northeastern side of town during the Wells administration
- The Indiana University Research & Teaching Preserve actively acquires and protects greenspace

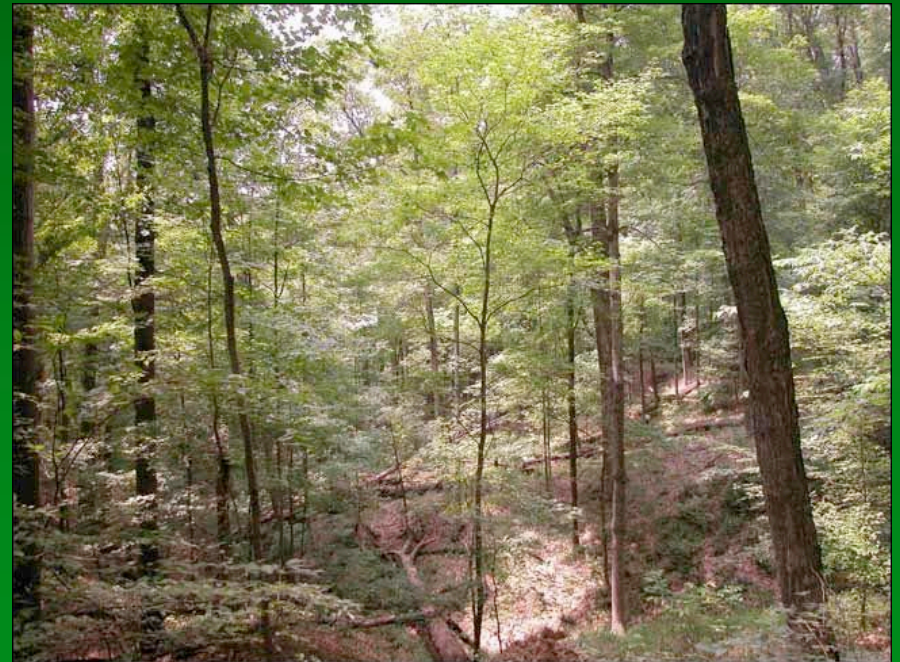


Photo: Indiana University Research & Teaching Preserve

How is our greenspace being protected?

City of Bloomington

- Deeds from COB Utilities (no more land left to give)
- Donations/protection by developers as part of larger development deals
- Federal grants
- Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) preservation options and requirements
- Land trusts
- Parks Land Acquisition Fund – 15% of city's property tax income ~ \$125,000 – \$135,000 a year

How can we better protect Bloomington's greenspace?

1. The Environmental Commission recommends a minimum of \$500,000/yr directed toward greenspace acquisition

- 61% of Bloomington citizens favor establishing more greenspace over the development of additional sports fields
- New waterslides at Bryan Park – \$1.1 million
- Greenspace acquisition in 2007 – \$134,023

How can we better protect Bloomington's greenspace?

2. The Environmental Commission recommends the formation of a Greenspace Taskforce to develop and implement a long-term, pro-active greenspace acquisition plan

- “Towards a Comprehensive Greenspace Plan” (2003) – information, resources & steps toward preserving and managing Bloomington's greenspace www.bloomington.in.gov/egov/docs/1074286872_475443.pdf
 - “Greenspace Summit”
 - Diverse stakeholders (city, county, non-profit, development, IU)
 - Maintain & extend comprehensive greenspace inventory
 - Prioritize & plan
 - Comprehensive acquisition plan, diverse funding sources
 - Maintenance, ownership
 - Public education & outreach

Acknowledgements



Photo: Indiana University Research & Teaching Preserve

- Chuck Winkle, GIS Specialist, COB ITS
- Jacob Mazer, EC Intern
- Planning Department
- Department of Parks & Recreation

Protect Bloomington's Green Infrastructure

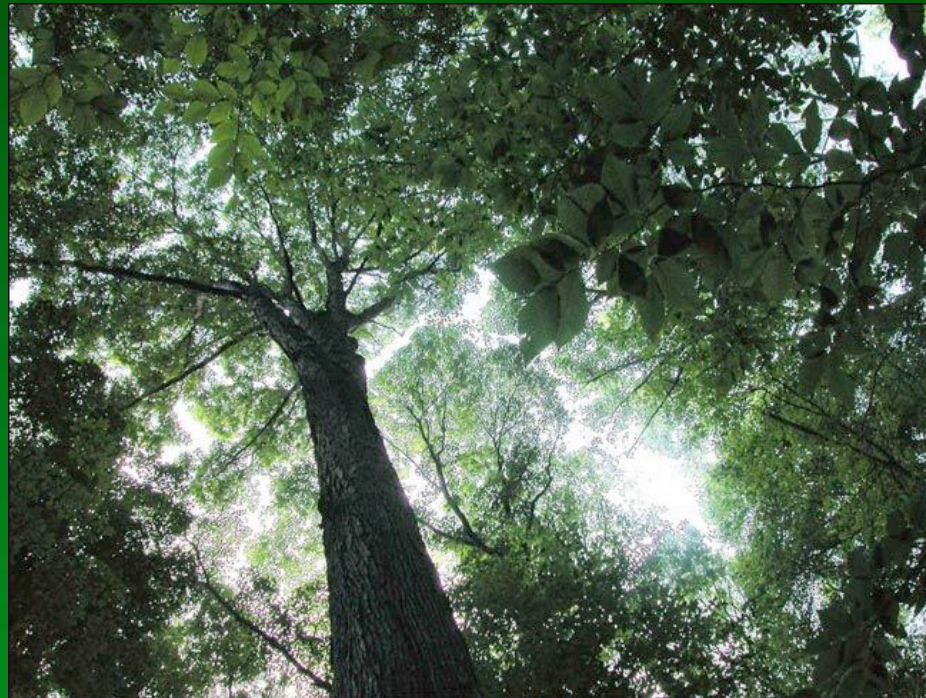


Photo: Indiana University Research & Teaching Preserve

- Greenspace Acquisition
- Greenspace Taskforce

<http://www.bloomington.in.us/environment>